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As an architect specialising in large highly complex projects I realised that we were going to need a good residential architect to help us design our dream home.

We interviewed a few architects thinking we would go the conventional design and tender route. Having an architect we could work with and who could coalesce our design priorities with their vision was critical for us. Also, to us it seemed that going with an architect/builder company would help reduce how much time we needed to spend on the project, so we decided to look at architect/builder companies.

We met Dean at one of his Home Opens for a new house he'd built for our old neighbours. They were very complimentary about their experience with HH so we set up a meeting with Dean and Helen. It was strange to be on the other side of the design table as a client and working with Helen was a good experience. Throughout design and construction Helen has been enthusiastic and approachable about the design of the house.

Deciding to build with an architect/builder company was really about three priorities: firstly; a good architect that we could work with, secondly; a reputable company with a good track record of satisfied clients, and thirdly; value for money. It was easy scoping out Dean's reputation. The responses were consistent "He's a good operator/guy" was the common response. That also sums up our experience with HH. Dean and Helen have been great to work with.

No building project is without challenges and our house also had its share of headaches, however these were all resolved without fuss. The sudden increase in sub-contractor rates and material prices started hitting WA just as we were about to start construction. Although this no doubt had an impact on Dean's costs, our contract pricing remained mostly unchanged. Variations are a part of almost all building contracts. In our case most of our variations were due to our initial allowances being a bit low or us upgrading specifications or selections.

Our situation in terms of involvement in the design was a little unconventional and probably created some challenges for everyone. Overall, we're really happy with our house and our experience with HH.

**Anna and Basil, City Beach**